

# Protect the Northwest from Crude Oil-By-Rail

## Tell the Army Corps and EFSEC to Deny Permits for Tesoro Savage



**T**he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) and Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) are taking public comment on potential permits and associated environmental review for Tesoro Savage's oil-by-rail terminal in Vancouver, Washington. **Tesoro Savage cannot build its terminal without permits from the Army Corps and EFSEC.**

This factsheet explains how **you** can help convince the Army Corps and EFSEC to deny these critical permits based on the project's significant negative environmental, public health, and safety effects.

### The Tesoro Savage project would:

- Build the largest crude oil-by-rail to marine vessel facility in the United States
- Receive and transload to marine vessels (i.e., barges and ships referred to as oil tankers) an average of 360,000 barrels of crude oil every day by rail (over 4 billion gallons of crude oil each year)
- Require at least four mile-and-a-half long unit trains (100+ cars each) per day
- Greatly increase intense industrialization on the Columbia River and the Vancouver shoreline
- Greatly increase oil tanker traffic on the Columbia River
- Increase air pollution, including hydrogen sulfide gas emissions, a colorless, flammable and extremely hazardous gas
- Significantly increase the risk of oil spills from trains and oil tankers

**Comment Deadline: August 1, 2015**

### HOW TO: SUBMIT A COMMENT

#### TO THE ARMY CORPS

Send comments attention: Tesoro Savage Petroleum Terminal, LLC NWS-2013-962

Email [nws.tesoro\\_savage@usace.army.mil](mailto:nws.tesoro_savage@usace.army.mil)

Mail U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Attention Steven Manlow, P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755

Make sure you include in the reference line of your letter or email, the following:

Ref. No. NWS-2013-962; Tesoro Savage Petroleum Terminal, LLC

#### TO THE ARMY CORPS

Send comments attention: Tesoro Savage Petroleum Terminal, LLC NWS-2013-962

Email [ecyfedefsec@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyfedefsec@ecy.wa.gov)

Mail Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, P.O. Box 43172, Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

## The Army Corps and EFSEC should stop Tesoro Savage by denying permits

The Army Corps and EFSEC both have the duty to protect the public interest and broad discretion to deny Tesoro Savage's permits. The Army Corps can deny permits if it determines that Tesoro Savage's project is not in the "public interest." The Army Corps can consider factors such as the public's interest in clean water, strong salmon runs, safe communities, local economic development, and other issues discussed below.

The vehicle for the Army Corps and EFSEC to evaluate the project's impacts is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Yet the Army Corps has not committed to preparing an EIS. This comment

period is your chance to tell the Army Corps to do their job: disclose the project's significant impacts in an independently-prepared EIS. An in-depth EIS will reinforce the Army Corps' ample grounds to deny Tesoro Savage's permits.

EFSEC also has the authority to deny the project under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act because turning the Columbia into a crude oil highway would harm water quality, fishing, and salmon recovery. Urge EFSEC to deny the Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification.



### Talking Points: Tell the Army Corps and EFSEC to deny Tesoro Savage's permits

- Crude oil leaks and spills, endangering water resources and salmon habitat.
- Crude oil trains explode, threatening people, homes, businesses, and the environment.
- Crude oil terminals and tankers emit toxic air pollutants, including diesel particulates and volatile organic compounds.
- The Tesoro Savage project will significantly increase rail and oil tanker traffic and congestion affecting local and regional economies, especially smaller businesses and individuals.
- Huge crude oil tankers would harm tribal treaty fishing rights and the fishing community generally by harming water quality and interfering with fishing boats.
- Siting the nation's largest oil-by-rail terminal on the Columbia River would harm the fishing and recreation industries.
- The Tesoro Savage project will have disproportionate impacts on low-income and minority communities along the rail route and near the terminal, causing them to shoulder a heavier threat of spills and accidents.
- The Tesoro Savage project is not in the public interest because local emergency responders along the rail lines and on the Columbia River are not equipped to handle a massive explosion or spill.
- The Tesoro Savage project undermines the state and federal government's efforts to combat climate change. The project would increase greenhouse gases at a time our region is moving toward more sustainable energy sources
- The Army Corps should prepare an EIS because the oil terminal would harm public health and significantly increase the risk of a devastating oil spill or explosion. The EIS should evaluate the cumulative impacts of multiple oil-by-rail terminals on the Columbia, as well as other fossil fuel terminals. Based on the EIS, the Army Corps should deny permits for the Tesoro Savage project.